a longitudinal channel that receives said strip, the channel being at least partly defined by guiding elements that are arranged for abutment against the strip from opposite sides of the channel, wherein at least one of the guiding elements is displaceable and biased towards the channel.

26. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, wherein said guiding element has a surface portion to be pressed against said strip and a shoulder portion adjacent to said surface portion for guiding said strip in said channel.

27. (New) A device as set forth in claim 26, wherein said surface portion and said shoulder are located on a freely rotatable body.

28. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, wherein said guiding elements are arranged to be pressed against said opposite longitudinal edges of the strip.

29. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, wherein each of said guiding elements comprises a freely rotatable body having a cylindrical portion for abutment against said opposite longitudinal edges of the strip.

30. (New) A device as set forth in claim 29, wherein each said rotatable body further comprises a circumferential shoulder adjacent to said cylindrical portion for guiding said strip in said channel.

31. (New) A device as set forth in claim 30, wherein each said shoulder is arranged to guide a portion of one of said upper and lower surfaces adjacent to said opposite longitudinal edges of the strip.

32. (New) A device as set forth in claim 29, wherein each of said guiding elements comprises a mounting block that receives at least one said rotatable body and is biased towards the channel.

33. (New) A device as set forth in claim 32, wherein each said mounting block are arranged for displacement on a common rod element extending in a longitudinal direction of the guiding device.

34. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, wherein the channel is further defined by at least one cover element that is arranged between the guiding elements to provide a small clearance with respect to a selected surface of said upper surface and said lower surface of the strip.

35. (New) A device as set forth in claim 34, wherein the cover element defines an opening allowing the marking unit to provide markings on said selected surface.

36. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, further comprising two cover elements that are arranged to at least partly define said channel, a distance between the two cover elements being such that the strip can move essentially without interference in said channel.

37. (New) A device as set forth in claim 36, wherein an opening is defined in at least one of said two cover elements allowing the marking unit to provide markings on at least one of said upper surface and said lower surface of the strip.

38. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, further comprising an intake assembly that includes first and second intake rollers that are arranged to receive the strip and abuttingly engage the upper surface and the lower surface of the strip, respectively.

39. (New) A device as set forth in claim 38, wherein each of said first and second intake rollers is mounted in a supporting structure for free rotation therein.

40. (New) A device as set forth in claim 38, wherein the first and second intake rollers define a clearance therebetween, said clearance corresponding with essentially zero tolerance to a distance between the upper surface and the lower surface of the strip.

41. (New) A device as set forth in claim 38, wherein each of said first and second intake rollers comprises a spindle having cylindrical, laterally spaced radial projections, the projections being arranged to abuttingly engage the upper surface and the lower surface, respectively.

42. (New) A device as set forth in claim 41, wherein one of said spindles is provided with guiding shoulders having a mutual distance that essentially corresponds to a distance between the opposite longitudinal edges of the strip.

43. (New) A device as set forth in claim 25, further comprising an outlet assembly that includes first and second outlet rollers that are arranged to receive the strip and abuttingly engage the upper surface and the lower surface thereof, respectively.

44. (New) A device as set forth in claim 43, wherein each of said first and second outlet rollers is mounted in a supporting structure for free rotation therein.

45. (New) A device as set forth in claim 43, wherein the first and second outlet rollers define a clearance therebetween, said clearance corresponding with essentially zero tolerance to a distance between the upper surface and the lower surface of the strip.

46. (New) A device as set forth in claim 43, wherein each of said first and second outlet rollers comprises a spindle having cylindrical, laterally spaced radial projections, the projections being arranged to abuttingly engage the upper surface and the lower surface, respectively.

47. (New) A device as set forth in claim 46, wherein one of said spindles is provided with guiding shoulders having a mutual distance that essentially corresponds to a distance between the longitudinal edges of the strip.

48. (New) An arrangement for shaping and marking a continuous strip of metal having an upper surface and a lower surface, said arrangement comprising:

a marking unit that non-mechanically provides said strip with markings on at least one of said surfaces;

a processing apparatus that mechanically shapes the thus-marked strip into marked articles; and

a guiding device including a longitudinal channel that receives said strip, the channel being at least partly defined by guiding elements that are arranged for abutment against the strip from opposite sides of the channel, wherein at least one of the guiding elements is displaceable and biased towards the channel.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please delete the present Abstract and replace it with the following new Abstract.